Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. ***(currently amended)*** Method for the determination of adrenomedullin ~~immunoreactivity~~ in biological fluids for diagnostic purposes, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~the~~ a mid-regional partial peptide (~~mid-proAM;~~ SEQ ID NO:3) of proadrenomedullin which comprises ~~the~~ amino acids ~~(~~45-92~~)~~ of the complete preproadrenomedullin sequence(~~pre-proAM;~~ SEQ ID NO:1) is measured, said level of the mid-regional partial peptide of proadrenomedullin in the biological fluid being indicative of the level of adrenomedullin.

2. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mid-pro-AM in the biological fluids is measured ~~by means of~~in an immunoassay which operates with at least one labeled antibody which specifically recognizes a sequence of mid-proAM.

3. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the immunoassay is an assay with a solid phase-bound competitor for the analyte and a labeled antibody (SPALT assay) or a sandwich assay (two-sided immunoassay), in which at least two antibodies which specifically bind to different partial sequences of mid-proAM (SEQ ID NO: 3) are used.

4. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the level of circulating mid-proAM (SEQ ID NO: 3) is determined and the biological fluid is a plasma.

5. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein both antibodies bind to a region of mid-proAM which extends from the amino acid 60 to the amino acid 94 of the pre-proAM.

6. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 5~~claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the antibodies are monoclonal and/or polyclonal.

7. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 6~~claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein both antibodies are affinity-purified polyclonal antibodies.

8. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 7~~claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of the antibodies is obtained by immunization of an animal with an antigen which contains a synthetic peptide sequence which comprises the amino acids 69-86 of pre-proAM (SEQ ID NO: 4), and the other of the antibodies is obtained by immunization with an antigen which contains a synthetic peptide sequence which comprises the amino acids 83-94 of pre-proAM (SEQ ID NO: 5).

9. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of the antibodies is labeled and the other antibody is bound to a solid phase or can be bound selectively to a solid phase.

10. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 8~~claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein both the first and the second antibody are present dispersed in the liquid reaction mixture and that a first labeling component which is part of a labeling system based on fluorescence or chemiluminescence extinction or amplification is bound to the first antibody, and that the second labeling component of this labeling system is bound to the second antibody so that, after binding of both antibodies to the mid-proAM to be detected, a measurable signal which permits detection of the resulting sandwich complexes in the measuring solution is generated.

11. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to Claim 10, wherein the labeling system comprises rare earth cryptates or chelates in combination with a fluorescent or chemiluminescent dye, in particular of the cyanine type.

12. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1-11~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is used for diagnosis of sepsis, for determination of the severity and prognosis and for therapy control accompanying the course of sepsis.

13. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to Claim 12, ~~characterized in that it~~wherein the determination of aderenomedullin is carried out as part of a multiparameter determination in which at least one further parameter relevant for sepsis diagnosis is determined at the same time.

14. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to Claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the further parameter or parameters relevant for sepsis diagnosis is or are selected from the group consisting of anti-ganglioside antibodies, the proteins procalcitonin, CA 125, CA 19-9, S100B, S100A proteins, LASP-1, soluble cytokeratin fragments, in particular CYFRA 21, TPS and/or soluble cytokertin-1 fragments (sCY1F), the peptides inflammin and CHP, other peptide prohormones, glycine-N-acyltransferase (GNAT), the carbamoylphosphate synthetase 1 (CPS 1) and the C-reactive protein (CRP) or fragments thereof.

15. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~it~~the determination of adrenomedullin is used in the area of cardiac diagnosis.

16. ***(currently amended)*** Method according to Claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~it~~the determination of adrenomedullin is carried out in the course of a multiparameter determination in which further parameters relevant for cardiac diagnosis are determined at the same time.

17. ***(original)*** Method according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~it i~~the determination of adrenomedullin s used in the area of cancer diagnosis.

18. (***currently amended***) Method according to Claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~it~~ the determination of adrenomedullin is carried out in the course of a multiparameter determination in which further parameters relevant for cancer diagnosis are determined at the same time.